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THE BATTLE

— OF —

WATERLOO

AS VIEWED FROM THE BATTLEFIELD IN 1877.

BY

T. T. ALEXANDER.

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WATERLOO.



It may serve better to illustrate our subject to give a brief description of the country and the relative situation of some of the principal points near to which these events transpired.

Belgium is situated between France and Holland. Its territory is about one-eighth that of Great Britain. The important position the country has occupied in the political and military history of Europe gives it a peculiar interest. It has undergone many changes of government and rulers. Its people have been celebrated for their courage and warlike proclivities. In 1477 Belgium passed under the rule of Austria and subsequently descended to Charles V., king of Spain, and was finally incorporated with the French Republic. By the Congress of Vienna the provinces of Belgium were annexed to those of Holland, to form the kingdom of the Netherlands, and thus existed until it became an independent nation. Belgium has been often the scene on which the surrounding nations have settled their quarrels, and has long been styled the "cockpit" of Europe. In the history of no other country

do we find such unbounded liberty, with such an invincible disposition to abuse it.

Brussels, its capital, is situated near the River Severn, about fifty miles from the sea and twelve from Waterloo. Charleroi, the first Belgian fortress on the line of defense towards France, was destroyed by the French in 1795, but restored by Wellington in 1815. Namur is a manufacturing city and has been dubbed "the Sheffield of Belgium." Liege is at the junction of the Outhe and Meuse, and, though very much less in size, somewhat resembles the City of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The City of Ghent contains a population of two hundred thousand people, at least one-half of whom are engaged in industrial arts. Here was the birth-place of John of Gaunt and of Charles V. of Germany; and here the treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain was concluded in 1814. Antwerp, the commercial capital of Belgium, was made by the Emperor one of his grand naval arsenals, who spent enormous sums on the construction of its docks and other works. It was here that Joan of Arc was taken prisoner and delivered over to the English. Other localities and places will be sufficiently described in the narrative of succeeding events.

A yet clearer comprehension of the salient features of this lecture, may be gained by a brief summary of the events and circumstances leading up to, immediately preceding and forming parts of the subject under consideration.

The disastrous termination of Napoleon's Russian campaign caused him, on the 6th of April, 1814, to abdicate the throne of France, and seek refuge in a foreign land. Soon thereafter the French throne went back into the hands of the Bourbons, with Louis XVIII. as king. Either out of respect for an old warrior, or to make a parade of their generosity, the Allies permitted



Napoleon to select Elba as the place of his retreat. Upon the accession again of Louis to the French throne, he found a chaotic state of public affairs, that would have confused and bewildered a much wiser ruler than he was. As a means of quieting the public mind and restoring order, he granted a charter or compact, that deprived him of some of his prerogatives, but it seemed to have satisfied neither of the parties into which France was then divided.

This state of affairs, not unknown to Napoleon, inspired him with the desire of again returning thither, and seeking to regain his former seat of power. Favored by the absence of the English commissioner, and the fleet stationed to watch the Isle of Elba, Napoleon in a small flotilla set sail, and on the first of March, 1815, landed at Cannes on the coast of France. He saluted his native country "as the parent of heroism and the home of genius." His reception exceeded his most sanguine hopes. He met the first troops sent out to oppose him by advancing to their front and laying bare his breast to receive their fire; but instead of firing on him they joined his ranks, and rallied under his banner. He was welcomed by his old soldiers in such numbers as soon to swell their ranks to thousands, all of whom received him with the wildest enthusiasm. Included in their numbers was Marshal Ney and the large body of troops under his command. Thus received and honored, the exiled Monarch marched triumphantly to Paris, and re-entered the Tuilleries on the twentieth of March, 1815.

The Bourbons, in the meanwhile, had evacuated Paris and made their escape into Belgium. It will be seen that a revolution was thus completely accomplished in twenty days, without shedding a drop of blood, and Napoleon re-ascended the throne from whence he had been driven the previous year. He immediately com-

menced the reorganization of the government, so as to make it conform to the new order of things, and thus re-establish his authority and power over the French people.

Accordingly a new ministry was formed, in which he transferred the Department of War to Marshal Davoust; to Fouché, who is charged with "hedging" on all subjects, was committed the important office of Minister of Police; the Foreign Office was given to Talleyrand; and other important positions were conferred upon his old adherents and officers.

The return of Napoleon to Paris produced great consternation among those of the allied powers who had contributed to his overthrow the year before, and soon thereafter a congress of nations was held and a coalition formed to check the growing influence and power of their former rival; so that by the last of March the great powers of Western Europe had formed a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, against the re-enthroned exile from the Isle of Elba.

Under these circumstances, the Emperor saw no choice but to flee the country and recall Louis XVIII. to power, or to fight. He chose the latter alternative, and proceeded, with his accustomed vigor, at once to organize and equip the army anew. Under what he was pleased to call a "constitutional monarchy," (more in name than in substance,) he prepared to resist the formidable coalition of kings and rulers that compassed his second overthrow.

The military preparations extended as well to the defense of Paris and Lyons, as the frontier defenses towards the Rhine and the Meuse. The preparations of the Allies were on no less a scale, until, it was said, a million of men were ready to fall upon France.

Napoleon had only two courses to pursue; the one to

march against the Anglo-Prussians at Brussels or Namur; the other to await an attack at Paris. The former course was adopted, because it removed the theatre of war from French territory to that occupied by his enemies. After disposing of part of his forces to secure other important points, the Emperor only had 120,000 men, with which to attack the forces under Wellington and Blucher. The plan of operations was to try and assail Wellington and Blucher separately before the other forces of the Allies could come to their relief.

Napoleon left Paris on the twelfth of June. The organization of the army was much modified. The commands of corps d'armes were given to younger generals. Ney and Grouchy were to command the different wings of the principal army. To appreciate the nature of the plan of attack, it must be remembered that it was not to attack a single army, but two, having separate and divergent bases of operations—that of the English on Ostend or Antwerp; that of the Prussians on the Rhine and Cologne; thus preventing the opportunities for a central operation by which the allies could be kept divided and fought separately.

The plan and commencement of this campaign forms one of the most remarkable operations in the life of Napoleon. The movements of the troops were arranged with so much precision, that 120,000 men from far distant locations found themselves assembled at a given rendezvous on the Belgian frontier as if by enchantment. Whilst Wellington, who had been given chief command of the allied forces, was occupied in giving *fetes* at Brussels, under the supposition that the Emperor was at Paris, the latter, at the head of his columns, was near at hand and ready for the impending conflict. Lord Byron, in *Child Harold*, has grandly portrayed this scene in glowing words of verse and song.

There was a sound of revelry by night,
 And Belgium's capital had gathered there
 Her beauty and her chivalry, and bright
 The lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men;
 A thousand hearts beat happily; and when
 Music arose with its voluptuous swell,
 Soft eyes look'd love to eyes which spake again,
 And all went merry as a marriage-bell;
 But hush! hark! a deep sound strikes like a rising knell!

Did ye not hear it? No; 'twas but the wind,
 Or the car rattling o'er the stony street.
 On with the dance! let joy be unconfined;
 No sleep till morn when youth and pleasure meet,
 To chase the glowing hours with flying feet—
 But, hark! that heavy sound breaks in once more,
 As if the clouds its echo would repeat;
 And nearer, clearer, deadlier than before!
 Arm! arm! it is—it is—the cannon's opening roar!

And there was mounting in hot haste: the steed,
 The mustering squadron, and the clattering car,
 Meet pressing forward with impetuous speed,
 And swiftly forming in the ranks of war;
 And the deep thunder peal on peal afar;
 And near, the beat of the alarming drum
 Roused up the soldier 'ere the morning star;
 While throng'd the citizen with terror dumb,
 Or whispering, white lips, "The foe! They come!
 They come!"

On the morning of the fifteenth of June the French troops occupied the following positions: The right, of sixteen thousand men, under Gerard, at Phillippeville; the center, of about sixty thousand, under the immediate direction of the Emperor, were near to his headquarters at Beaumont; the left, of forty-five thousand, on and near the Sambre.

The allied armies were not yet assembled. Blucher's forces were at Charleroi, Namur, Dinant, Liege and Luxemburg. On learning of the Emperor's approach to the Belgian frontier, Blucher immediately ordered the concentration of his forces. Wellington's forces were still in

their cantonments on the Scheldt, ready, however, to move at the first signal. The road running from Charleroi to Brussels was the point of junction of the two armies, and to this point the operations of the French were directed, in order to prevent such junction. There were computed to be under Blucher about one hundred and eighteen thousand combatants. There were under Wellington about ninety-nine thousand at Brussels and other points in that vicinity.

On the fourteenth of June, Marshal Bourmont, in command of a French corps of troops, had deserted to the allies. It has been said that a drummer, who deserted from the "old guard," gave Blucher the first information of Napoleon's approach.

Ney took command of the left wing of the army, and was ordered to march on the road to Brussels in the direction of Quartre Bras. The right wing under Grouchy was ordered to look after the Prussian forces under Blucher, the center of whose army was near Ligny. Ney delayed the execution of his order to march on Quartre Bras, and on that account, when he did make an attack on that place, was repulsed. Meanwhile the forces under Grouchy had achieved a victory at Ligny. Thereupon Blucher set about concerting plans for a speedy junction with Wellington. Grouchy was sent in pursuit of the retreating Prussians. The reserve and left wing advanced against the English at Quartre Bras, which, however, were in full retreat on the road to Brussels, covered by their cavalry, the French following in close pursuit as far as the heights of Planchenois.

The English manifested an intention to take a stand and offer battle in front of the forest of Soignies,—Waterloo. This, as before stated, was what Napoleon desired—to meet and attack the two armies separately. Blucher had been defeated at Ligny and forced to retreat on a line

diverging from the other army, and a force detached in pursuit, thought sufficiently strong, to prevent a junction. Grouchy was ordered to occupy the defile of St. Lambert, so that if he did not take an active part in the battle, by falling on the left of the English, he could in any event give them some trouble, and at the same time cover the flank of the French army.

Napoleon's reasons for attacking the English at this time and place may best be given in his own words: "The army had been harrassed by rains, bad roads, and forced marches. Under ordinary circumstances it would have been best to allow it some repose and afterwards dislodge Wellington by maneuvers. But other armies were about to invade France, and my presence would soon be needed elsewhere. Moreover, Blucher would soon rally, and with reinforcements again attempt to form a junction with the right of the Allies; it was therefore necessary to end with the English as soon as possible."

The position of the allied army had great defensive advantages. They occupied the slope in front of Mont St. Jean, favorable for their fire, and gave them a view of the French operations. The right extended to the rear of Bram la Leud, with a corps to cover the road from Mores to Brussels. The villages of Braim and Merbes, the chateaus of Hougomont, La Hair Sainte, La Hair and Frichemont, forming advanced bastions, which flanked and secured the whole line just on the brink of the vast forest of Soignies, with no outlet for a great army such as was here assembled.

The road from Brussels to Waterloo lies through this forest. One mile from the latter place is the hamlet of Mont St. Jean, and half a mile in front is the farm house of the same name on the road to the farm of La Hair Sainte in the immediate rear of the British position. On the ridge, and the ground behind it, occupied by the

British, stood a solitary tree, near to which was Wellington's position in the fight.

The British lines extended along the ridge to the right and left, their extreme right being protected by a ravine. In front was a valley, not regularly formed, but with numerous windings and hollows, varying in breadth from a quarter to half a mile. This was the scene of the principal conflict.

The opposite ridges, running parallel to Mont St. Jean, were occupied by the French. La Hays Sainte, the object of the second attack in the middle of the battle, was the point near to which was the conflict between the Imperial Guards and the British troops that decided the fate of the day. To the right and in the centre of the valley is Hougomont, a farm house, the orchard of which was surrounded by walls. On the road to Charleroi and the ridge exactly opposite the British centre, was La Belle Alliance, the position of Napoleon during most of the engagement.

In determining the plan of the attack, the French commander thought to maneuver by the left to turn the enemy's right. This might cut off his retreat on that side of the forest, and would be attended with some advantages to him, but might result in throwing Wellington in the direction of Blucher. To attack with the right to crush the English right was therefore preferable, but the ground was unfavorable, so Napoleon determined to assail the left and pierce the center of the allied army, and in execution of that purpose the mass of the French forces were directed on the center; the extreme left was assailed only by the division from the right of Erlon's corps. Ney was to conduct the three other divisions to the right of La Hair Sainte. The corps of Reille was to support this movement. Two divisions were between this road and

the farm of Hougomont. The division of Prince Jerome was to attack this farm, constituting, as it did, the salient point of the enemy's lines. Wellington had formed loop-holes in the walls of the chateau and garden, and secured the enclosure of the park, occupying the whole with the English Guards. The Sixth French Corps and a mass of cavalry followed as a third and fourth line to the center, so as to support Ney's attack; twenty-four battallions of the guard and cuirassiers forming the fifth and sixth lines, ready to bear upon the decisive point. The plan of attack has been regarded as a model by the masters of the art of war.

Napoleon had purposed to begin the attack early in the morning, but rain had fallen in torrents during the night of the 17th and previous day, which delayed the attack until eleven o'clock of the eighteenth of June, when the attack commenced with artillery and musketry against the farm of Hougomont, which Jerome endeavored to carry. A few moments after Ney presented himself at the opposite extreme of the line. The marshal began a violent cannonade against the enemy's left, merely waiting for a signal to fall upon it.

A little after twelve o'clock strong columns were discovered on the right in the direction of Lasue and St. Lambert, supposed to be a detachment of Grouchy's men. A detachment of three thousand horse were sent to a point where they could either cover Napoleon's flank or open a communication with Grouchy. A Prussian hussar, with an intercepted letter, announced the approach of Bulow with an estimated force of thirty thousand men. This information determined Napoleon to hasten the attack. Ney at one o'clock made his first onslaught on the center, and by a vigorous charge pierced the first line of the Belgian brigade, but in turn was suddenly assailed by

an English division under Picton, who had been placed in the second line behind a rise of ground favorable to their concealment.

The combat now became furious. The French columns under a murderous fire began to waver, and being charged by the English cavalry their ranks were broken. While these things were taking place against the left and left centre of the Allies, Jerome had dislodged the enemy from the park of Hougomont; but all efforts were vain against the embattled walls and chateau, which was defended by the English Guards.

Wellington was waiting for the promised aid of Blucher, and sought every means to prolong the contest. For him there was no hope of retreat; he must conquer or die. Seeing the efforts of the French were towards his centre, he called twenty battalions of Belgians and Brunswickers, and placed them in reserve behind the right and centre, and himself repaired to the defense of Hougomont. At this point there was an unsuccessful attempt made on the chateau by the division of Jerome to dislodge the enemy, which however failed and degenerated into a cannonade and skirmishes, without advantage to either side. In this interval Ney applied all his energy and force of character to repair the check which he had received in his first attack, and at four o'clock, after almost superhuman efforts, Ney's troops were masters of the two points of La Hair Sainte and Papelotte, which gave the French a decided superiority and all the chances were now in their favor.

At this moment it was found that Bulow, with the fourth corps of the Prussian army, thirty thousand strong, debouched from the woods and commenced an attack on the fifth corps of the French under Laban, with only about twelve thousand six hundred infantry at his disposal. Bulow advanced until he reached the rear of the

French center, and it became all important to arrest his further advance. Accordingly, at five o'clock the Young Guard with a part of the Old Guard were directed against him with the purpose of afterwards falling upon Wellington with the united reserve. In the meantime Ney was merely to sustain himself in possession of the two points, La Hair Sainte and Papelotte.

Wellington on his side, encouraged by the attack of Bulow and reinforced by troops from his extreme right, sought to regain possession of the park of Hougomont and the farm house of La Hair Sainte, and for this purpose Hanoverian and English troops were directed to these two posts. At this moment Ney sought to get possession at all hazards of the plateau Mont St. Jean and throw his brave cuirassiers on the centre of the Allies. This was a glorious operation most heroically executed; but the plateau was crowned, and it became now necessary to sustain Ney where he was or allow his troops to be cut off. At this time, say after six o'clock, the reserves of the French cavalry to the number of ten thousand were ordered to advance, and caused great havoc on the enemy's lines, and their progress was only checked by the infantry of the second line. The combined English, Belgian, Hanoverian and Brunswick cavalry now charged the French, but the latter rallied again at a short distance and in turn drive back the Allies' horse upon their infantry. The repeated efforts of this cavalry are glorious beyond description, and the impassable perseverance of their adversaries is also deserving of the highest praise. Wellington himself says "that he never saw anything more admirable than the ten or twelve reiterated charges of the French cuirassiers against troops of all arms."

But disorder now began in the allied army, reaching even to Brussels, where the French were momentarily expected. Bulow had been driven back by the French,

and Grouchy's cannon were now heard in the distance and victory seemed assured to the French.

To give the finishing stroke, at half past seven all the Guard unite and carry the strong position of Mont St. Jean, which was thought would certainly insure the balance in their favor. But this illusion was of short duration. The French cavalry had hardly rallied its victorious squadrons, when Blucher himself with one or more of his corps arrived.

A bold movement was made to change the fortunes of the day, led by the Emperor himself, aided by Marshal Ney and the brave soldiers of the Old Guard, but these herculean efforts proved of no avail. All that part of the imperial army that were sent against the Prussians under Bulow, broken and pierced by forces double their own numbers, took refuge in flight.

Wellington, seeing that the attack of Blucher was giving the decisive blow, collected his best troops, regained the park of Hougomont, fell upon the Old Guard with an overwhelming superiority and waged an indiscriminate warfare upon the disordered and retreating forces of the Emperor. The remnant of cuirassiers and the cavalry of the Guard do wonders; but all is in vain. Infantry, cavalry and artillery join pell mell in the retreat, leaving Napoleon to effect his own escape across the fields, accompanied only by his staff, without a battallion with which to check the enemy.

Thus ended one of the most courageously fought battles known to history. Whatever else may be said or thought of this world-renowned contest, the masters of military art are all agreed as to the ultimate cause of Napoleon's defeat. Had Grouchy prevented the junction of the Prussians under Blucher with those of Wellington, or flanked their columns on their retreat from the battle-field of Ligny by a lateral pursuit, and thus joined his forces to

those of the French at the opportune time at Waterloo, in all human probability the result would have added another chaplet to the brow of the all-conquering hero.

After the battle of Waterloo, Napoleon returned to Paris. Those of the French forces who escaped, assembled between Laire and Paris. The ministers were called together to deliberate on the measures necessary to save the country. Napoleon appeared before this council, and urged conferring upon him dictatorial powers or giving the same to the Chambers. But neither plan was adopted, and the result was the abdication of Napoleon in favor of his son under the title of Napoleon II., Emperor of the French. His purpose was to exile himself from Europe and come to America, but this purpose was thwarted, and he was doomed to end his days on the lone island of St. Helena.

It is known to students of history, that there is considerable diversity of sentiment, as well as of statements, in reference to this memorable struggle; and as the foregoing account of the campaign and battle is mainly gleaned from French sources, I deem it but just to the Allies to give briefly their version of the battle.

It was on the fifteenth of June that the French troops took up their line of march in three columns, which were pointed upon Charleroi and its vicinity. Napoleon had resolved to occupy Brussels, and his line of advance thus lay through the line of cantonments of the Allies. The Prussian general rapidly concentrated his forces and on the morning of the 16th Blucher was in position at Ligny with 80,000 men. Wellington's troops were concentrated at Quatre Bras, about nine miles distant.

On the 16th Napoleon in person attacked Blucher, and after a long and obstinate battle defeated him and compelled the Prussian army to retire toward Wavre. On

the same day Marshal Ney, with a large part of the French army, attacked the English at Quartre Bras; and, though failing to defeat them, succeeded in preventing them from sending help to Blucher.

On the news of Blucher's defeat at Ligny, Wellington, having received promise of his assistance, retreated to and halted on the seventeenth of June at the memorable field of Waterloo. The scene of this celebrated action must be familiar either from description or recollection to all. I shall only aim at giving a general idea of the main features of an event resulting in the discrowning of Napoleon and a crowning victory for the Allies.

When, after a very hard-fought and long-doubtful day, Napoleon had succeeded in driving back the Prussian army from Ligny, and had resolved on marching himself to assail the English, he sent Marshal Grouchy on the 17th with 30,000 men to pursue the defeated Prussians and to prevent their marching to aid the Duke of Wellington.

Great criminations passed afterward between the Marshal and the Emperor as to how this duty was attempted to be performed and the reason of its failure. But it may be surmised that the failure was not so much the fault of Grouchy as the indomitable heroism and perseverance of Blucher himself in exposing a part of his army to be overwhelmed by Grouchy at Wavre on the 18th, while he urged the march of the mass of his troops upon Waterloo. "It is not at Wavre but at Waterloo," said the Marshal, "that the campaign is to be decided."

It was in full reliance on Blucher's aid that the duke stood his ground and fought the battle of Waterloo. The strength of the army under Wellington at Waterloo has been put at 67,655 men; Napoleon's at 71,947.

An accurate idea may be gained of the battle-field by picturing a valley between two and three miles long, of various breadths at different points, but generally not

exceeding half a mile. On each side of the valley there is a winding chain of low hills, running somewhat parallel with each other. The declivity from each of these ranges of hills to the intervening valley is gentle but not uniform. The English occupied the northern, the French the southern ridge. The village of Mont St. Jean is situated a little behind the center of the northern chain of hills; that of La Belle Alliance close behind the center of the southern ridge. The road from Charleroi to Brussels runs through each of these villages and bisects both the English and French positions; that of Wellington was strengthened by a village and farm called Mark Branie on the extreme right, and on his extreme left by two little hamlets, La Haye and Papellote.

Behind the whole British position was the forest of Soignies. In front of the British right was an old fashioned farm-house called Hougomont. In front of the British center was another farm-house called La Haye Sainte, which was held by British troops, and was of great importance to them in the progress of the battle.

The principal feature of the French position, in addition to those mentioned, was the village of Planchenoit in the rear of their right, and aided them in checking the advance of the Prussians.

The Prussians were on the morning of the 18th at Wavre, twelve miles east of Waterloo. Theilman with 17,000 men was left to defend Grouchy's contemplated attack on Wavre, whilst Bulow and Blucher moved toward Waterloo and began to appear on Napoleon's right in considerable numbers as early as five o'clock P.M. Never was the issue of a single battle looked forward to as involving consequences of such vast importance, or of such universal influence.

At about half past eleven o'clock Napoleon began the battle by attacking Hougomont. After nine hours of

deadly strife, victory perched upon the standard of the Allied forces, and the exultant armies of England and Prussia were in undisturbed possession of the heights lately occupied by their enemies.

The battle was lost by France past all recovery. The loss of the French army in killed and wounded is given at 18,500, with some 8,000 prisoners taken. The loss of the Allies were reported to be over twenty-three thousand in killed, wounded and missing.

Before the return of the Emperor from Elba, death had removed the most brilliant of his former Marshals. Grouchy, Soult, Davoust and Ney were the most renowned of those who espoused his cause after his return.

Grouchy was given Murat's place in charge of the cavalry. After the battle of Waterloo he brought off his corps safely, and was given the command of the whole army, and arrived at Paris June 29, 1815. The Bourbons intended to have him shot, but he escaped to Philadelphia and died in that city in 1847. Soult was exiled and died at the age of 82 years, during the reign of Napoleon III. After Napoleon left the capital Davoust became provisional governor, and agreed to the capitulation and surrender of Paris. The saddest fate of all was that of Marshal Ney, who was shot on the seventh of December, 1815, in Luxemburg. It is said when the officer of the firing party saw who it was, he became petrified, but another was found to take his place, and the world-renowned warrior fell with six balls in his body and three in the head and neck. The forms of law could not be carried out; the demands of revenge could be.

There are on the battle-ground and in the Church and church-yard of the village of Waterloo numerous monuments and tablets of marble to commemorate the deeds and designates the resting places of officers and soldiers, who fell in that memorable conflict. The most noted of

these is known as "Lion Mount," a vast accumulation of earth, covering the bones of many that were slain in battle, and marks the spot where the Prince of Orange was wounded, and near to which was the desperate charges of the French cavalry, just before the appearance of Blucher with the Prussian legions that determined the conflict. On this rises a conical mound two hundred feet in height and surmounted with a bronze figure of the British lion, with paws overlapping each other, and, significantly enough, his body heading towards France.

Of this "Child of Destiny," it may be said, that his military achievements have not been surpassed in all the centuries ago. It is equally true that he wielded this power for ambitious, selfish ends, and to the irreparable injury, as well of his own, as the other kingdoms devastated by the tread of his armies. His shameful putting away of the Empress Josephine, and his utter disregard of every social and moral virtue, brand him as a moral leper, whose life and example was only evil, and that continually.

The gilded dome that has been raised over his sleeping dust on the banks of the Seine, in the Church of the Invalides, may serve to inspire the looker-on with its grandeur and beauty, but it soothes none of the pangs of sorrow that he brought to the sons and daughters of his native land.

Perhaps the most enduring monument to his fame and greatness will be found in the Code of laws framed by him, known as "The Code Napoleon," that is substantially the same now in force in France, and most of the states of Europe, as also in some of the states of our own country. But to the rising generation there is much more of warning, in the life and character of this man, than of commendation and emulation,—

"Who would soar to such a viewless height,
To set in ignominious night?"

And what of France? The darkest, bloodiest chapter in the book of time is the slaughter of St. Bartholomew on the banks of the Seine. The conspiracy that conceived and the wickedness that executed this plot, by which one hundred thousand of French Huguenots were slain because of their religious belief, will go down the passing ages as the monster crime known to history. Who does not see in this fiendish deed, its legitimate outgrowth in the Reign of Terror? the Guillotine, the horrors of the commune, and the deadly inquisition? Yea, more; God's holy day has been set at naught, its observance discontinued and scoffed at. And from that day forth, it would seem as if the avenging angel had been hovering over this delightful land, with bended bow and destructive quivers, crying, "How long? O Lord! how long? Wilt thou not avenge the death of thy saints? Verily, verily, this people have sown to the wind, and are reaping and garnering the whirlwind, as their harvest."

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